

## House Republican Press Release

April 29, 2006  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Witkos Proposes Gas Tax Holiday



#### ***Proposal Offers Relief from State Gas Tax for Summer Months***

HARTFORD- With retail gasoline prices jumping an average of 25 cents per gallon within two weeks across the nation, State Representative Kevin Witkos (R-Canton) is proposing an amendment to gasoline zone pricing legislation before the state House of Representatives which would offer temporary relief from Connecticut's high gasoline tax for Connecticut motorists. According to the provisions of the amendment, the gas tax would be repealed this year between Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup>, until Labor Day, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006, creating a one-time gas tax holiday.

"Connecticut has one of the highest gas taxes in the nation, and with prices jumping just before the busiest driving season of the year, we should offer some financial relief to Connecticut motorists over the summer by temporarily repealing the state's gas tax," said Representative Witkos. "There is no question that more comprehensive and long-term action needs to be taken to relieve spiking gasoline prices. There is also a limit to what we can do at the state level, but this would be an important emergency measure to help motorists out this summer."

Witkos also stated that he was communicating with Connecticut's U.S. Senators and members of Congress, asking each of them to support a similar gas tax holiday on the federal level to give further relief. Witkos said that a temporary repeal of federal and state taxes, would all add up to important savings for motorists. Connecticut's gasoline tax is 25 cents per gallon, while the federal gasoline tax is 18.4 cents per gallon.

Witkos noted that this is only a temporary solution to a larger problem. "We can have the debate about fuel efficiency; MTBE, ethanol and oil dependence, but in the meantime, let's do something that gives relief right away," he said.

The amendment will be offered to *Senate Bill 502, An Act Concerning Unfair Trade Practices and Cash Discounts for Gasoline*, which could come before the House as early as Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.